GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:687
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
POLYMETALLIC NODULES PROGRAMME
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Polymetallic Nodules Programme has not been found to be viable;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof alongwith the potential of the project

(c) whether the project has been reviewed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount earmarked for exploration and exploitation of polymetallic nodules during the Ninth Plan and actual amount spent thereon during this plan period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) AND (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NC REGARDING POLYMETALLIC NODULES PROGRAMME PUT UP BY SHRI Y.V. RAO FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SAB 14.5.2002

a),b), c) and d) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committeefor Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Environment and Forest andOcean Development , the polymetallic nodules programme has been reviewed by a Group of Experts constituted by the department. The Group of Experts in the course of the review of the work carried out in respect of various components of the programme, identified gaps in the technological and scientific knowledge. Unless information is generated by way of implementation of activities of Survey & Exploration, Mining system, Extraction of Metals & Environmental Impact Assessment the overall picture will remain incomplete and inconclusive. The Group has recommended additional informationrequired to be generated by implementing its recommendations in respect of Survey & Exploration, Mining System, Extraction of Metals and Environmental Impact Assessment. The knowledge base is recommended to be upgraded to such a level to enable the launching of activities from mining to recovery of the metals.

e) Out of earmarked amount of Rs. 95 crores for the Ninth Plan, an expenditure of Rs. 72.03 crores was made.